

OBSERVATIONAL METHODS AND FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT

Professor: Mallory Quinn, MA, BCBA

Hi, I'm Mallory Quinn. Welcome to Observational Methods and Functional Assessment.

So a little bit about myself-- I started in the behavior analysis field working with clients with autism. I also have experience doing parent training and foster care. My thesis research was with dancers. I used an acoustical feedback training procedure to enhance their dance performance.

Originally, I wanted to be a neurologist. And I just found that behavior analysis was a lot more likable, because you could actually see the change, in your clients, that you were making with therapy. And that really struck me when I took that class. And that's when I started working in the field, with clients with autism.

I really like compared to other psychological fields because of the database decisions that we make. And you can really, again, see the change in your clients when you graph their data and see the effect that behavior analysis has in their everyday life.

This class, in my opinion, is definitely very important. A lot of it is on the behavior analysis certification exam. So the exam has a lot of questions on assessment and intervention procedures. In this class, you'll be learning how to conduct different assessment procedures to learn why a behavior actually occurs, and then, to select procedures based on function that match that assessment procedure.

So you'll be able to conduct assessments, choose assessment procedures, choose intervention procedures based on those assessments, write an intervention plan. And finally, we're going to talk a little bit about how you would train a parent or staff member to implement that intervention plan, which is very important for your clinical practice.

If you are working in the field already, I'm sure a lot of these procedures are going to spark questions for you. If you have questions about a client or something like that, feel free to ask. I can't answer every question about a client, just because of ethical reasons. But if you have a question about how, maybe, an assessment procedure would be used out in the field or a certain scenario, I'd be happy to help you in any way that I can.

I hope that this course provides you a lot of information for when you are out working in the field clinically. And with the project in our class, you would actually have an opportunity to conduct these assessment procedures and write an intervention plan with a client that you're working with, which is very exciting.

So I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you. And again, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me. We can set up a Skype meeting. No question is silly or dumb. So please feel free to contact me. And I hope you find this course as informative and exciting as I do.